

Application No. 10/563,687

Docket No. NY-GRYN 229-US

Amendment dated August 1, 2008

Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2008

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing intolerance by a subject to a specified substance by detecting whether or not the subject's polymorphonuclear neutrophils have become activated after exposure to said specified substance, comprising the steps of:  
incubating a leucocyte sample prepared from whole blood drawn from the subject with an extract of said specified substance; and  
detecting whether or not polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMNs) in the sample have become activated by determining whether or not PMNs in the sample have become adhesive by assaying adhesion to a plastic surface.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original). The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of determining comprises the step of determining the PMN adhesion by assaying adhesion to a plastic multi-well titre plate.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of determining comprises the step of determining the PMN adhesion by assaying adhesion to the titre plate containing 96 wells.
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein said extract is a food extract; and further comprising the step of washing the plastic surface to remove unreacted cells, after incubation of the sample with the food extract but before assaying adhesion.

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6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of detecting adhesion comprises the steps of detecting by lysis and assaying for one or more intracellular markers for PMNs.
7. (Currently) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of selecting ~~one or more markers from~~ at least one of the following markers: acid hydrolases, myeloperoxidases, lysozyme, lactoferrin, neutral proteases, ~~and~~ serine proteases and lactic dehydrogenase.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of detecting comprises the step of optically detecting PMN activation.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of detecting comprises the step of detecting the PMN activation by luminescence, detecting the uptake of dyes or fluorescent markers, photometry, detecting release of cytokines or by detecting release of bioactive molecules, microbial proteins and/or free radicals.